

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1066

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 0339

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHZUFELE, AF, ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAII: PFOR, SU, US

SUBJECT: GOS/USG RELATIONS

REF: KHARTOUM 313

1. HAVE JUST RECEIVED INFORMAL INFORMATION FROM AF/E THAT MEMO RE NEXT STEPS IN GOS/USG RELATIONS SHOULD NOW BE AWAITING FINAL APPROVAL. THIS IS WELCOME NEWS. GENERALIZED LANGUAGE OF OPTION APPARENTLY FAVORED BY AF IS LIKELY TO PROVE DISAPPOINTING TO GOS, HOWEVER, UNLESS SUCH RUBRIC WILL PERMIT US PROMPTLY TO REMOVE AT LEAST SEVERAL MORE OF EXISTING "HOLDS" OF OUR NORMAL OPERATIONS. WITHOUT SUCH TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF OUR INTENTIONS, I FEAR SUDANESE LIKELY INTERPRET ANY GENERALIZED ASSURANCES TO THE EFFECT THAT WE ARE UNDERTAKING STEPS TO RESUME FULLY NORMAL BILATERAL RELATIONS AT SOME UNSPECIFIED TIME IN FUTURE AS CONFIRMATION OF THEIR WORST FEARS THAT CONCRETE STEPS IN THIS DIRECTION ARE NOT TO TAKE PLACE NOW. I, OF COURSE, RECOGNIZE THAT FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS WOULD NOT NECESSARILY PERMIT US TO DO VERY MUCH IN A POSITIVE WAY IMMEDIATELY AFTER SPECIFIC "HOLDS" MIGHT BE REMOVED. BUT OUR DECISION TO LET SUDANESE KNOW THERE ARE NO LONGER SPECIAL POLITICAL BARRIERS TO NORMAL OPERATIONS WOULD BE OF GREAT USE TO US HERE AS SYMBOL OF FACT THAT GOS IS WORKED ITS PASSAGE. IT IS THIS SYMBOLISM OF RETURN TO NORMAL IN WHICH SUDANESE ARE CHIEFLY INTERESTED.

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THEREFORE, HOPE WHATEVER GENERAL LANGUAGE MAY

BE APPROVED WILL PERMIT US TO TAKE THE SYMBOLIC BUT SPECIFIC STEPS OF AT LEAST RE-ESTABLISHING OUR DATT OFFICE HERE AND BEING WILLING TO CONSIDER REPEAT CONSIDER THE SUDANESF PL 480 REQUEST WHICH HAS BEEN PENDING SINCE LAST JUNE. SHOULD SOME MODEST PL 480 PROGRAM THEREAFTER PROVE UNJUSTIFIED FOR TECHNICAL REASONS, THIS WOULD BE FAR MORE READILY ACCEPTABLE HERE THAN OUR CONTINUED REFUSAL EVEN TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR SUCH HUMANITARIAN TYPE AID FROM ONE OF THE WORLD'S POOREST COUNTRIES. PARENTHETICALLY IT MAY BE RELEVANT NOTE THAT SECRETARY AGREED AT TIME "HOLDS" IMPOSED THAT GOS WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH EXECUTION MODEST FY 74 PL 480 PROGRAM, SHIPMENTS OF WHICH THEN IN TRANSIT.

2. IN CONNECTION ANY MOVEMENT ON SUDAN/USG POLICY, BELIEVE WE SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER REITERATING TO EGYPTIANS THAT OUR IMPROVING RELATIONSHIP IN SUDAN BY NO MEANS CONNOTES SLIGHTEST LESSENING OF INTEREST ON PART WASHINGTON IN THE CONTINUED DETENTION OF THOSE EIGHT PLO MURDERERS IN EGYPT.

3. REALIZE ANY FORWARD MOVEMENT ON OUR POLICY WILL IN PART BE JUSTIFIED AT HOME (AND CAN VERY WELL BE JUSTIFIED) ON HELPFUL GOS ROLE RE AMERICAN HOSTAGES ERITREA. I NEVERTHELESS HOPE THAT, TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, THIS PARTICULAR FACT WILL NOT BE EMPHASIZED IN PUBLIC COMMENTS BY USG OFFICIALS, INCLUDING CONGRESSMEN. NOT ONLY WOULD IT EMBARRASS OUR RELATIONS WITH NIMEIRI BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT MIGHT COMPLICATE OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO ASSURE MAXIMUM GOS COOPERATION IN FREEING REMAINING THREE AMERICANS. BREWER

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